



CAWMC was founded January 1st, 1975

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President's Message

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2019-2021

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As I am writing this message, the news world rages about the propagation of a new virus which could affect our personal life sooner or later. Yes, the outbreak is a bit scary, and we may all have to review and modify how we greet people and eventually must choose which gatherings we will "risk" to attend. Personally, I am a hugger, so I will have to change my habits, to my great chagrin. I hope that I'll never have to imitate my eldest, who now greets people with "toe bumps". So weird and not great to try when one is wearing high heels!

So maybe this quiet time, should you have to endure it, will give you a chance to review your wooden money collection, rediscover forgotten pieces(just like I recently rediscovered Al and Marion Munro's wedding wood!). Sadly, the ONA convention in Burlington ON has been cancelled but, hopefully we'll be able to meet at the RCNA gathering in Halifax NS in July. Fingers crossed everybody!

In this issue, aside from our regular "chips from the woodpile" you'll discover some of Sean Sinclair's wooden rendition of his favorite coins. Please read Judy Blackman's article about the Alberta Beach Museum woods. It demonstrates, in a very entertaining manner how research can bring one to an unforeseen path, not always wood related but nevertheless, educational or chuckle-worthy.

And, to quote and adapt from CAWMC's own Kevin Day-Thorburn (through NumisNotes): *"Would you like to share something to Timber Talk, but don't want to have to write a big article? Send me some images and we'll do the rest. Highlight your field and the topics you've chosen to collect. I think it's pretty safe to say that we all like seeing what interest others."*

Be safe,

France

This little bunny and his grand-maman wish you and yours a Happy and Serene Easter.



CAWMC Featured Wood of the Month for April 2020

This month's Featured Wood of the Month is a donation by CAWMC Life Member **Judy Blackman** to commemorate **CAWMC's 45th Anniversary**. The wood design is screened on the 45 mm kill beetle pine blanks and then a child-safe lacquered is applied to keep the design from wearing off. The order was for 100 with Judy to receive 2 and CAWMC to receive 98, but as always with Jim Smith (woodencoin.com), there is a bit of an overrun for quality purposes so likely the total run was around 110 as both Judy and CAWMC received extra.



Judy likes to be creative in the design of her woods and she doesn't like to repeat any designs from previous woods she has issued. The obverse of this wood reads "Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors 1975–2020" in the outer legend and the inner circle reads "45 Years". The image is a generic lumber-Jack figure holding a felling axe by a partially cut tree (see the low cut edge angle). Obviously we need trees and they need to be chopped to create wood blanks, and we already have a cut log end as our CAWMC logo, so this is a step back before that stage in production. The reverse reads "CAWMC Life Member Judy Blackman" and has a generic lumber-Jill using a Husqvarna 390XP chainsaw 88cc with 28in bar, versus an axe used by the image on the obverse. Women have been taking baby steps in the working world; but lately even larger steps, in that more females are demonstrating their abilities to successfully perform jobs which in the past have traditionally been male-dominated. Throughout Judy's entire life, she was told over and over since she was a child that she could not do certain things because of her gender; and luckily, this only drove her forward rather than holding her back.

Judy hopes you enjoy this commemorative wood in celebrating CAWMC's 45th Anniversary this year!

Coin Week Canada April 18-24, 1982
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS.
 Membership application and information available from
BRUCE WATT,
 Secretary-Treasurer
 1153 Northridge St., Oshawa Ont.
 L1G 3P3
"BE SURE TO TAKE ALL WOODEN NICKELS."
COIN WEEK MAIL

Here's some blasts from the past:



Sean Sinclair's favorite coins, laser-engraved on birch plywood

ED: I came across this picture of laser-engraved coins. At the time, I just had spent many hours volunteering with Sean at an ONA convention, but Sean is modest and didn't volunteer any info about these creations. So, I tracked him down and here is what he wrote about his work:

"I originally began making these as coasters, with different coin designs on them. I mostly used Canadian and US designs, however, there were a few designs from other countries as well. These coasters were 100 mm in diameter.

A couple of years ago, I decided to make a handful of designs as wooden nickels. These were meant to be fancy business cards, which I left at the information tables at the entrance to various shows. I have only produced 25 of each design. While I do have my own examples (which are one sided), I do not have any of the designs with my business information on the back side. All of those went out to the shows and clubs.

The first 4 or five were released at the CAND show in Hamilton in January 2017. I then produced a second series for the show in Paris, in February. ONE of the woods from the series produced for Paris says that the recipient gets a free coin holder if they email me. This has not yet been claimed.

The coins were produced by me on a laser cutter at Diyode in Guelph or at Cambridge MakerSpace. The wood that was used is 3 mm baltic birch plywood.

For the most part, the designs are just a selection of some of my favourite coin designs. It was my intention to produce ALL of the designs for Canada 125, as well as the Bundeslander series of German 2 Euro coins, however, I am no longer producing these, due to the time and cost involved."

Left: Sample of the wooden nickels created by Sean. There are many more for you to discover...

Right: a clever use of the patterns manufactured by Sean: a piggy bank!



Chips from the Woodpile

By Dave Gillespie

In a newsletter from the Fall of 1976 Joe Szalavary advised the members that there were many misconceptions about the wood issued by Smith's T.V. in Lethbridge. There were three different wood pieces issued and they were made in 1969 not 1974 as stated in the John Curtis listing. Approximately 500 in total were issued (about 165 of each – current catalogue numbers 8550-004/005/006) and Smith's T.V. used them in their Annual Wishing Well Sale. If you purchased a stereo outfit during the sale you received one of each. That was the only way to get the woods.

In early 1977, Timber Talk acknowledged Paul Johnson, the current R.C.N.A. Executive Secretary as having joined C.A.W.M.C. and in the same issue Frank Degilio believed that it was time to bring the hobby of wooden money collecting up to the standards to which it belonged and thereby introduced from the Latin some new words: "Lignus" – Latin for wood and "Denarius" – Latin for money combining them as follows: "Lignadenarics" – the art of collecting wooden money and "Lignadenarist" – the wooden money collector.

In April of 1977 the newsletter acknowledged J. Ross Kingdon as new member. After joining and become comfortable with his collecting Ross stepped up and spent many years as the Bulletin Editor and currently assists the Editor with the printing and distribution of all hard copy newsletters and the collection and distribution of your monthly Free Wood.

Many thanks to Ross for his past, present and future service to C.A.W.M.C. and the hobby in general. When Garry Braunwarth was editor he did say in several of the early newsletters that the organization will only be as strong as it's members and Ross is proving that to be true.

Did you know C.A.W.M.C. member, Walter Holda from Sunbury, Pennsylvania. He was known by many as "Mr. Woody" and in 1977 he issued a 2" silver wooden crown to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Two hundred were made and although the wood was issue in the U.S., Walter advised that Canadian collectors were the first to be offered a chance to buy the wood. The following year, Mr. Woody went on to produce another wood to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

And now for another Tom Hudson quiz question:

Hi Rigger King of the Woods – What city put his picture on their wood?

Til next time Let the Chips lie where they fall.



Answer to the Chips Quiz Question from March 2020:

Q: Who put out a wooden penny in 1956? A: A. M. McDonald, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Alberta Beach Museum

by Judy Blackman, CAWMC Life Member, FONA, KSt

In 1975 there were two Alberta Beach Museum woods issued. The first 50 mm round wood is in Norm Belsten's catalogue as 8060-025 with a rarity rating of 1. It is black ink on both side and the quantity produced is unknown. The obverse reads "ALBERTA BEACH MUSEUM UNCLE JOHN" and the reverse says "1975 1 WOODEN \$ 330,000 DISPLAYS 15 BLDG'S".



The second 50 mm round wood (8060-002) has a rarity rating of 2 and although the image looks like purple / black, it is black ink on both sides. The quantity produced is 500. The obverse reads "GARDEN PARK FARM MUSEUM JOHN OSELIES" and the reverse reads "ALBERTA BEACH MUSEUM ONE WOOD DOLLAR 1975 130,000 DISPLAYS".

CAWMC past president Al Munro remembers that he first met John Oselies, also known as Uncle John, in the early 1980's and visited his museum located in rural farmland east of Alberta Beach. The museum was housed in numerous buildings and showcased John's personal collection of over 250,000 items. In total John produced over twenty different wooden tokens showing various descriptions of himself and facts about the collection. Al does not remember discussing the use of the tokens but thinks they were sold as souvenirs to visitors at John's museum. By the time Al acquired his cottage in a village adjacent to Alberta Beach, in 2000, John's museum still existed but was closed to the public. Al is not aware that it has ever reopened.

The Village of Alberta Beach was incorporated in 1920 and is set on the shores of Lac Ste. Anne approximately 60 km West of Edmonton and is primarily used for recreation. Over the years Alberta Beach has become a popular resort to visit which has a combination of permanent and summer residents. The permanent population taken from the 2016 census is 1,018 and on a busy summer weekend can attract 3,000 or more visitors. Alberta Beach has a 5 member Council whose term currently runs until 2021.

As the obituary confirms, John (or his birth name Joachim from his North German heritage) Hermann Oselies known as "Uncle John" passed away March 20, 1990 at the age of 77. He was survived by his loving wife Annie and their six sons (Allan, Jerry, Erick, Ruben, Fred, David) and three daughters (Bonnie, Joan, Betty), as well as, seventeen grandchildren. John was predeceased by his parents, four brothers, and seven sisters. I was able to confirm that since John's passing, his wife Annie and his sons David and Allan passed away. David was just 57 when he died on December 30, 2016. Allan Hermann Oselies died January 2, 2018 at the age of 76 after a brief illness. This shows you the spread in ages, 19 years difference between Allan and David. Allan's obituary confirms David was his youngest brother, and also confirms all his other siblings were still alive at the time of his death.

I found this story in the Alberta Beach archives:



Finally school was out in June and we got to spend more time at the lake. Dad got two weeks holidays and we spent them all here. We also went fishing every night and caught Jack (Northern Pike). They were very plentiful. Once in a while we were able to catch a Pickerel (Walleye). We ate all we caught. The supply truck would only come to the Beach once a week and that is when you were able to get fresh meat and other perishables items. Jack Clarke would come around during the week to sell milk from the back of the wagon. Roy Patterson sold vegetables and **I remember John Oselies selling eggs**. This was all done on the street from the back of their wagons. There were no farmers' markets in those days but the concept was the same.



At this time we got to stay on a Sunday night, we were excited to take in the movies at the dance pavilion. Ray Meurin ran these. They were National Film Board films but to us it was heaven. There was also a movie shown once a week at the Community Hall.

Where does the name "Uncle John" came from? At first I suspected John owned the chain of fireworks outlets. Every store reads "Uncle John's FIREWORKS Expert Service & Great Prices—Alberta's Friendliest Fireworks Store". The goofy character for the business's website (and the one below from the Facebook page) reminds me of the goofy character on the one wood.



The stores are located in Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Slave Lake, year-round; whereas the stores at Bear Hills / Wetaskiwin and St. Paul (pictured here) are seasonal and St. Paul's (both opened only May-September).

However I'm wrong as it appears John Adria has been the owner for at least eight years. So Alberta must love the name "Uncle John".

So next I considered publication by The Bathroom Reader's Institute, *Uncle John's Bathroom Reader*, especially the issues "Weird Canada" and "Plunges Into Canada, eh", as somehow this just seemed like something a museum curator would be into! Even more so in reading these issues, there is a humorous story about a beach:

BEACHED CAMPAIGN

In 2009, Premier Ed Stelmach's \$25 million campaign to promote Alberta and "get the correct information out" fell on its face after some false advertising. An ad showing two cute kids romping on a seaside beach promoted the new provincial motto, "Freedom to Create, Spirit to Achieve." One local, Peter Baily, liked the shoreline so much he contacted provincial officials for the exact location. Turns out the featured beach was in Northumberland, UK. Even the children in the ad weren't Canadian. The official response from Alberta spokesperson Tom Olsen was that the British beach showed that "Albertans are a worldly people." Today, Alberta's motto is "Fortis et Liber," aka "Strong and Free." And it's written on the Alberta Coat of Arms, which features a stag, a beaver, a mountain lion, flowers and mountains – all native to Alberta.

Since John is now deceased he is not listed on staff nor as a contributor to this publication. Could he very well have been involved in this publication and gotten the nickname "Uncle John" as a result, I don't know, but I'd like to think so.

